

Duxbury Clipper, August 14, 1996

Historic Standish St. House Preserved

By SUSANNA SHOHAM

This week selectmen gave a nod of approval for the permanent preservation of an historic home on Standish St.

At their Monday night, meeting selectmen voted 3-0 to approve preservation restrictions at the Sampson-Gifford House at 104 Standish Street. This request came from the property owner Rosamond Gifford in conjunction with the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. According to Shantia Anderheggen of the SPNEA "under these restrictions, the significant historic features of the house and site will be protected against irreversible alteration as well as neglect or demolition." The arrangement is legally binding and recorded in the Registry of Deeds.

Anderheggen told selectmen that this house, built in 1804, had been in Gifford's family since the beginning of the 1900s and that Gifford took this action because "she cares very much about the property" and wants to see it preserved.

Parts of the exterior will be protected including wood and masonry elements, such as doors, windows, chimneys, the foundation, and also a shed and a fence. In the interior, the preservation restrictions will protect the carved woodwork and floors and the in-tact decorative wood-graining. Anderheggen said that this type of deeded protection also provides an "enhancement value" to the property because its 1.76 acres are protected against development.

The house will remain private property. SPNEA's role is one of watch-dog to make sure the specific features are protected and a SPNEA member will visit it annually to assist the property owner with advice and assistance for maintenance and repairs. If the preservation restrictions are violated in any way, SPNEA can take legal action and, according to Anderheggen, SPNEA has "a large legal reserve and can legally enforce restrictions." The organization has held 55 similar deed easements.

Although town approval was not required to create the preservation restrictions, Anderheggen said that with both town and state approval, the restrictions will be perpetual. Without these approval, SPNEA must renew the restrictions every 20 years.

Coincidentally, the Sampson-Gifford house is on the same street as the historic house at 47 Standish Street that was recently demolished after being sold by owner Edna Hecks. The destruction of this mid-19th century house has created both confusion in town as to the reason for its demolition and an outcry by residents against destroying other historic buildings and altering the town's character.

Tour of Cushman Memorial



Saturday, August 24

After several years of restoration work and preparation of the Cushman collection, The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts (formerly, The Plymouth County Wildlands Trust) is having an open house and tour of the gardens and magnificent grounds, "the Anchorage." The Trust has completed a memorial to donor Lura Cushman and her grandfather, Capt. David Cushman. There are objects and furniture from Capt. Cushman's voyages to the Orient and of Lura's days in Old Duxbury. The property was part of the Alden farm, Lura's forebears.

The property is located on Anchorage Lane. Heading from Route 14 east toward Powder Point, it is the first right after the school/library complex. Parking is to the left of the preserve sign.

The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts is a nonprofit organization dedicated to land conservation and the preservation of the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts. The Wildlands Trust holds its land in trust to benefit the public today and for future generations. The Trust actively seeks to acquire and protect lands in a natural state, according to each opportunity's distinctive characteristics and needs. The Wildlands Trust also seeks to educate the public about the importance of land conservation; to advance the study and conservation of native flora and fauna; to promote cooperation with those who share the Trust's goals; and to encourage prudent public policy toward land. The Trust may protect land in Plymouth, Norfolk, Bristol and Barnstable counties. For information about membership or the benefits of conveying land or conservation (including agricultural) restrictions to the Trust call 934-9018.